

MATTERS OF SCIENCE.

The Press of Philadelphia publishes an extraordinary Latin poem, and translation of it, written by the distinguished Jesuit of the sixteenth century, Panisio Strada, born at Rome in 1572 and living as Professor of Rhetoric in the Gregorian College, where he died in 1649. He is chiefly known as the historian of the Belgic War from Charles V. to 1590; but that he shared not only in the actual, but also in the prophetic learning of that active and cultivated age, this curious poem proves, in which he describes with marvelous fidelity, as if he saw by second sight, the very details of the great adventure, the laying of the Atlantic telegraph. It is too long to insert in these notices of what is doing in the world of science from day to day, but there is another and shorter relic of the past, prophetic of the present wonders, which is equally worthy of being rescued from oblivion. It occurs incidentally in the *Travels in France* of Arthur Young, who, on the 16th of October, 1787, was sightseeing in Paris, and thus writes on the 135th page of the second volume of his journal:

"In the evening to Mons. Lomond, a very ingenious and inventive mechanic, who has made an improvement of the way for spinning cotton. Common machines are said to make too hard a thread for certain shutes, but this forms it loose and spongy. In electricity he has made a remarkable discovery: You write two or three words on a paper, he takes it with him into a room and turns a machine in motion, a cylindrical case, at the top of which is an electrometer, a small fine ribbed ball, a wire connects with a similar wire and electrometer in a distant apartment, and his wife, by remarking the corresponding motions of the ball, writes down the words they indicate, from which it appears that he has formed an alphabet of motions. As the length of the wire makes no difference in the effect, a correspondence might be carried on at any distance—within and without a besieged town—for instance; or for a purpose much more useful and a thousand times more harmless—the invention covers prohibited or prevented from any better connection. Whatever we use may be, the invention is beautiful. Mons. Lomond has many other curious machines, all the entire work of his own hands; mechanical invention seems to be in him a natural propensity. In the evening, to the *Comédie Française*, he saw the *Bourgeois de Venise*, and it is not easy for acting to be carried to greater perfection."

Thus wrote the amiable, learned and talkative old traveler, straight ahead, as the bird flies—or Time—unconscious that he was writing for precisely 1858, and no other year, either of his own or his children's century, any more than the bell-founder in the mother country knew that the *Proclaim Liberty to all the Land*, which he cast about the collar of his bell, was given to him by the fates, and only intended for the future fourth day of July, in Philadelphia, 1776. So we see again, in this example, how, in fact, nothing is entirely new, or arrives into history unprepared and unheralded, as every comet gets its coma on its way to the sun. The essential elements of the telegraph were undoubtedly worked out in Paris before the proclamation of peace in 1782. While Sir Edward Packington was leading his staggering ranks against the cotton-bale breastworks of New Orleans, husband and wife were concocting lovers' comforts, and prophesying universal philanthropy in that laboratory beside the Seine. Not Hughes and Henry and Faraday, but the great Franklin himself was anticipated. We suggest that, of those innumerable submarine mountain peaks which fancifully make up the now mythical "plateau" at the bottom of the Atlantic, that the one first actually touched and tried and fixed, the one first in good sooth, plumb and struck fair up on the head and mapped by the Coast Survey, be christened *Monsieur Lomond*; and may it be the tallest of them all, the Mont Blanc, may the Mount Everest of the chain.

During the dry silence of Mr. De Santy and the new quite intolerable delays of even the fastest of our ocean mail steamers, the slightest hint of what may be the difficulty "down below" is welcomed by the American public, who find themselves in a situation most unpleasantly like that of the boys in the Pickwick Papers, who stood pertinaciously flattening their noses against the apothecary's window, while the unfortunate patient was operated upon in a back room; seeing nothing, they could only vent their curiosity in diverse kickings and hootings to show their right to have some interest in the proceedings. The last *Cosmos* copies from the English *Builder* a curious item of news bearing on the subject:

"On examining a piece of submarine cable cut from the end of the *La Manche* line, long in use, there were noticed an indefinite series of ruptures or subdissolutions, as if the wire had been dropped in molten metal, or as if it had been subjected to the action of the electric vibrations. Since the case of the Transatlantic cable, currents positive and negative alternately are launched through it, such a disintegration of the wire must be expected to come about even more rapidly. The fact itself is too mysterious to be discussed at present."

It is not untrue, however, to bring it into analogy with what we know of thermal action in cases of cross crystallization, such as the chilling of the surface of iron, the fibrous radiation of brown hematite ore, and the columnar structure of basalt and other slowly cooled lavas. Where life resembles these imponderable agencies we may compare it with the annulated division of all stemmed animals, the fine discs of encrusting footstalks for example, or the ringed structural deposits in worms. Copper wire is but a cylindrical arrangement of a crowd of molecules, and electricity seems to be merely the driving through them of ring waves, which must in the end pack them into discs, of a regular size and very minute, because the waves are regular and very minute, the waves of light being about 50,000 in an inch; and these discs when sufficiently compact should concentrate to coin a word, communicate as certainly as the nebulous matter of our solar system, when once broken into zones, conglobed into planets.

The first number of the new or rather revived *Analects Telegraphiques* has appeared. It is published every two months under the direction of a committee of functionaries of various telegraph lines, with the Baron Amiot at their head. One or two of the names are well known in America—Lair, Richard, Bergon, Gonnelle, Blavier, Lemoine, Saigey, Grosjean, Amion and Brault. It will treat of everything allied to telegraphing and electricity in general.

The weekly *Bulletin Meteorologique*, published by LeVerrier, grows in importance, and is fast becoming a common medium of intelligence among astronomers, through which a thousand facts of everyday observation work, formerly laboriously and tardily circulated in manuscript letters, are not only flashed round among the men of the stars, but made tea-table gossip among uninterested amateurs. In this LeVerrier announces from Encke, the celebrated discoverer of the comet of short period, that it has appeared again, and been seen by M. Forster, at the Berlin Observatory, on the 7th of August last, almost exactly in the position assigned to it by the ephemerides calculated by M. Encke himself, the difference in right ascension being only $-2^{\circ}.17$, and in declination, $+19^{\circ}.2$. On being asked the very delicate and difficult question, whether or not the present return of this important little body confirms the opinion which the study of its orbits originated, namely, that the space through

which the heavenly masses move, is full of a resisting ethereal medium, tending always to retard their advances, diminish their orbits, and bring them finally into the sun, LeVerrier cautiously replies that, even if Encke's first suspicions of it should not be confirmed, his long and admirable calculations of the subject of this resistance shows the handling of a master. A real Talleyrandian reply! But Babinet is bolder, and asserts that the combined observations of returns teach us as yet nothing certain on the subject.

Prof. B. A. Gould publishes (Sept. 21, *Astronomical Journal*, p. 154) a letter from Encke, announcing the return of the comet under the name of Pons's comet, begging for American observations, and saying that Maclear will study it in the southern hemisphere. Prof. Gould, after discussing new calculations of the fifth comet of 1858, now attracting so much admiration, adds: "We may expect that it will present a magnificent appearance in the west after sunset about the beginning of October, and during the first weeks of that month its brilliancy will be four times as great as it was on the 18th of September last."

The astronomer Secchi at Rome thus writes to Dr. Peters at Altona, in Russia, over the date of July 19, the following description of the newly-studied surface of the planet Mars, and sends him to publish in the *Astronomische Nachrichten* two pictures of the planet taken with an interval of about one-third of a revolution on its axis. The spots seen and drawn by Captain Jacob at Madras in 1754 are seen in these representations also, and are therefore to be considered permanent, although there seems to be some confusion among those about the pole. On the other hand a small round spot, portrayed by Madler in 1830, has certainly disappeared. Any one, however, who will take the trouble to compare Secchi's drawings of the curious group of solar spots seen on successive days in March (14, 15 and 16) 1858, with a larger and better drawing of the same group accidentally made on one of the same days, March 15, by Schwabe, and both of them published by Dr. Peters, pages 236 and 342 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, will see how much depends on the quality of the telescope, the condition of the atmosphere and the truth of eye and skill of hand of the observer, in determining these delicate tests of comical stability or instability in bodies so far beyond our reach. For Secchi's drawings would lead any one to put unhesitating faith in the popular theory that the spots of the sun are consequences of vortical or whirlwind movements in the equatorial belts of its atmosphere, so spirally has he drawn them, and so evidently have the little ones on each successive day advanced spirally a certain distance round the larger ones. Whereas Schwabe's better drawing shows no such movement whatever, not a trace of it, but on the contrary a curiously cracked or shivered condition of each spot in the group, especially the larger ones, through the cracks in the even black surface of which the white light shines with much sharper edges than around the limit of the spot itself; while the penumbras are cracked and gaped outward like old and wind-tossed palm leaves.

There is no certainty, therefore, that any but the principal spots on Mars are stationary. To reconcile the different drawings, it is quite necessary to suppose that the numerous white patches about the poles succeed each other rapidly, and therefore are more likely to be masses of storm clouds than increasing and decreasing areas of snow. The least agitation of the atmosphere makes the beautiful colors of the planet's disc grow pale and confused. The general surface is a monotonous continent crossed by an equatorial zone of red and temperate zones of blue, except in one place where a large red island is surrounded by a blue channel. Toward the edges of the disc the red spots become yellowish as if there were a martial atmosphere.

At the close of the letter Professor Secchi states that the great barometric vacuums in the terrestrial atmosphere, which were discovered a few years ago, and have been diligently studied ever since, have been demonstrated to move from over London to over Rome in seventeen hours.

The astronomer Faye designed but never executed a zenith telescope. The Astronomer Royal, Airy, is the only one who ever made a practical use of one. M. Porro of Paris, who lately made the extraordinary lens which the irascible and rather obstinate Le Verrier took so much dudgeon at, refused to believe in or have anything to do with, to the intense disgust of our clever gossip of the *Cosmos*, the good Abbe Moigno, M. Porro's friend, this M. Porro we say makes an excellent portable zenith telescope surmounted with a cup of water with a transparent bottom. As it is one of the few instruments which require no instrumental adjustment, it must come into general use, when its merits become known, to determine the latitude of points upon the surface of the earth. Every engineer and surveyor, at least every county surveyor's office should have one. But there is a new and curious use to which M. Antoine d'Abbadie proposes to apply it of especial interest to geologists and mathematicians who wish to know if the world be perfectly round or not, and how much it weighs; a nice point also in land-surveying, although not at first apparent. He proposes to use two Porro zenith telescopes at once, one on each side of a mountain, Schellhorn in Scotland, for example, which has been weighed already by Maskelyne. One of our own thin, high, straight Appalachian mountains running east and west would still better. Observing the same zenith star at the same time from the two sides of the mountain, half the distance of the observed points in the heavens would show how far the weight of the mountain mass withdrew the instruments from the perpendicular, and determine the weight of the earth. It strikes us at the moment that astronomers, and also their humble dependants, the geologists of course, should be sincerely thankful to the Creator for creating so much.

Were there not so many stars—were the heavens as dusted over with these far off points, the chances of these gentlemen would be very small for profitable observations, or of zenith stars with Porro instrument.

Apogee of the overpowered star of the heavens, another asteroid has been detected, and, fortunately for the Scientific Council, its discovery was made at the Llandudno Observatory. Dr. Gould has published a planet circular, stating that on the night of Friday, Sept. 10, Mr. George Searle, Assistant at the Llandudno Observatory, discovered with the Clark Comet-seeker, a new asteroid, the Fifty-fourth, and approximately determined its position on the following evenings. The circular adds, what is pretty generally known now, that "the facilities for determining the place properly at this Observatory are not yet available, owing to serious and unexpected obstacles. The large meridian circle is, however, already in position and approximate adjustment, and I trust that

"within a few weeks all obstacles will have been surmounted and the instrument brought into use."

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LONDON, Sept. 17, 1858.

The acquisition of the harbor of Villafranca, in Piedmont, by the Odessa Steam Navigation Company, is an event of importance which is deeply felt at Vienna and Paris, though *The London Times* tries to depreciate it. It is well known that the Odessa Steam Navigation Company, though apparently a joint stock undertaking, is in fact a Government enterprise. One-half of the shares have been taken by the Russian Government, no foreigner is allowed to hold a share, the superintendent of the Company is in the hands of the Admiralty, and all the captains and officers must be selected from the Navy list; the ships are to be built according to the American plan, ready to be armed as steam frigates at any emergency, and will perform regular trips alternately on both shores of the Black Sea to Constantinople, to Greece, Syria, Alexandria and Italy. The harbor of Villafranca has now been taken on a lease of twenty-two years for five millions of roubles, to be paid at once to the Sardinian Government by the same company. Thus Russia has at last got a naval station in the Mediterranean, which she has coveted in vain for the last sixty years. Even now all the diplomatic squabbles about Montenegro have had no other cause than the desire of acquiring a harbor from Turkey for these mountaineers, who never have been sailors and have no inclination to go to sea. The political importance of these regular trips, which will accustom the Christian and Mussulman population of Turkey to the Russian flag, and will soon expel the Austrian Lloyd from those waters, where it is maintained solely by a large Government subsidy, cannot be overrated; as to the dividends of the Russian shareholders, they are safe, since they are guaranteed by the Czar. I will not now enter into the question whether it was patriotic on the part of Count Cavour and King Victor Emmanuel to give a footing to Russia on the Italian peninsula. They may be said to have done this, but the present animosity against Russia prevailed over any further consideration, and as the lease is to last only for twenty-two years, the Sardinian Government believes that the Italian accounts with Austria once settled, the dangerous connection may be easily terminated. The Vienna papers are seriously alarmed by this transaction, so much the more as hopes were entertained at the Imperial Court that the antagonism between the Czar and Austria might soon be terminated by the intervention of the Czarina, who, as a German Princess, is sincerely attached to the Austrian dynasty, and deprecates the circumstances which gave rise to the estrangement of the two Courts.

The great object of Czar Alexander's home policy, I mean the emancipation of the serfs, has been advanced one great step by the resolution of the Lithuanian committee to leave the peasant communities in the possession of a portion of their lands, while some Russian banking houses have prepared a scheme for giving facilities to the serfs to pay off their dues to the landlords, and to redeem their liberty by regular installments to the bank, which will pay the landlords in full. It seems that the Lithuanian committee have recommended the Prussian system, by which the landlord received one-third of the landed property of the peasant as an equivalent for the lost labor, tithes and dues, while the scheme of the bankers agrees more closely with Kosuth's plan, by which the Hungarian landlord got the capital in State obligations, the State being indemnified by a temporary higher taxation of the peasants. This plan, accepted by the Hungarian Government, was so popular in the country that the Austrian Government did not dare to subvert or to alter it. It thus survived the wreck of all the Hungarian institutions, and the Austrian Ministers had to confirm it; but from time to time they try to appropriate the merit of the mode of emancipation to themselves.

Party politics are now at a complete ebb in England. France is quiet. There are no new difficulties on the Continent which require an instantaneous solution, and Ministers have quietly gone to their country seats, all over Europe; but Queen Isabella is suspiciously kind to O'Donnell—a certain sign that she is brewing mischief. The next great event in Europe is to be the abdication of the King of Prussia in October.

THE FRENCH IN CHINA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PARIS, Sept. 9, 1858.

The French are still rejoicing over their victory in China. Not that they rejoice at the event as we do at the success of the Transatlantic Telegraph. They do not explode in rocketry jubilation, nor proceed through the illuminated streets by countless thousands, nor set fire to the Hotel de Ville. They have not let off a single pack of fire-crackers in appropriate celebration of their Chinese conquest.

True, it is not so important as the one over and under the elements which so delights us; but we are an immeasurably more excitable, expansive, demonstrative, friskier people than the French. The proposition may seem, at first glance, a paradox; it only depends on how one looks at it to see its patent truthfulness. See how our mobile populations skurried off to California a few years ago; note their impetuous dash toward Fraser River. Talk of French fêtes. What of them can compare with the great religious fêtes that you celebrated for months together last Winter, in New-York and throughout the country? What Feast of Pikes, or Feast of Eagles on the Champ de Mars equals our quadrennial political mass meetings and torch-light processions? Talk of French excitement. Does it culminate once a month in a burned negro or a lynched white man? Does it demonstrate itself in individuals with bowie-knives and freemans, and in masses with hurrahs and cheers which for volume and tremendousness are utterly unattainable by the Latin races? No! In these, as in other respects, we "beat" the French.

But to return to what I was saying. They are in a high state of boasting and self-satisfaction over the forced submission of China to the civilizing conditions offered by them and the English. The chief motive—at least the one put forward as chief—of the French in undertaking the war was the avenging of the missionaries put to violent deaths by the Chinese. That it was right for Frenchmen to propagate doctrines in China tending to subvert the established institutions of that country—its prevalent notions of family, order and religion, is understood as a matter of course by every one; but, by everybody of the 36 millions countrymen of the missionaries—the two hundred millions Chinese bodies who understood the matter differently do not count. That it was appropriate action in the case to kill some thousands of Chinese who had probably never seen a missionary, by way of exercising vigilance on the other half dozen Celestials who had, at different times, killed each a Christian white devil, is also a matter of question.

How many of the sectaries of Confucius those dead missionaries turned before their violent death, from their erroneous ways to those of righteousness, piety and peace, is not nicely known. For the parent society that sent forth these martyrs passes for being rather strong than cautiously accurate in statistics. Neither is the number of victims to French Christian vengeance, and the offered English civilizing interest, correctly ascertained. When pressing Judge Moullereau pronounced sentence of death, at Issoudun, on Pierre Michel, he added, in a consolatory tone, the expression of his hope that this would serve as a lesson in Christianity and civilization, teaching the moral excellence of the dogma and the sanitary benefits of the drug.

Give the French the credit of being tolerably

disinterested on the score of interest purely. Until the canal of Suez is dug, as it surely will be, and Marseille becomes, as it may, the great entrepot of Asiatic-European commerce, France can derive no large, direct pecuniary profit from the opening of China. What she at present proudly hopes is the extension of the French name and French ideas—religious ideas and civilized ideas—to a new quarter of the world. For if our world is to be measured by the number of on-dwelling souls, and not by old absurd geographical lines, China better deserves the title than Europe, which is not a quarter, even in area. [Newspaper writers cannot indulge in the luxury of marginal and foot notes, so I look the following, with brackets, to the body of the text. According to Professor Dietrich, of Berlin University, in his recent paper read before the Academy of Sciences of that city, the whole number of souls, or bodies, now on earth is 1,233 millions, of whom, or which, Europe sustains but 272 millions—the American quarter, by the way, holds but 59, of whom less than half make up the count of our country which we are so apt to think of as the world par excellence. From the memories of the Russian ecclesiastical mission at Peking, just translated and published here in that valuable periodical *La Revue Germanique*, show that, according to the best attainable authorities on the subject, the population of China numbered over three hundred and sixty millions in 1812. Now to subside and go on.] The French bind the Chinese by treaty to admit them and their ideas into the country. French missionaries—even French Protestant missionaries—are to have free access and right of speech—that is, of propaganda. Christianity and enlightenment, the Church and the principles of '89 may now invade China. That is the conquest over which the faithful and the Voltairians, *L'Univers* and *La Presse*, equally exult.

What offensive bosh, gammon, blatherskite, is this! The words are vulgar, but so is the thing. Such utterances. While the French force upon the Chinese their preachers of novel, irritating dogma, M. Chereau, Prefect of the Department of La Sarthe, sends out to all executive officers in authority under him a circular order regulating their treatment of colporteurs (book peddlers), from which the following is an extract:

"I should add, in accordance with instructions of the Minister of the Interior, that in all Departments like ours, where a small part of the population professes the reformed religion, the Protestant Bibles are to be put in the same category (*assimilées*) with works contrary to the doctrine held by the majority, and consequently of a nature to cause a certain irritation. There is reason, therefore, to exclude these works from colportage."

It is true, that since the issue of this circular last July, which has been much commented on, the same prefect has put forth another, in which this logical gentleman declares that, despite his present statement, "Protestant Bibles are not to be regarded as irritating works." Now, in the first place, the unadulterated Bible, without note or gloss, is a work eminently calculated to irritate the minds (*irriter les esprits*) of the populations; in the next place, the object of the first circular was plain and definite, to check the hawkling of the same; in the third place, the "irritation" caused outside the department of La Sarthe by the publication of the first; in the fourth place, note that the first circular really is, as the honest prefect says, in strict accord with the circular of the Minister of the Interior, and with an explanatory article that appeared some months ago in the *Moniteur*, of which I spoke at the time in sufficient detail; in the fifth place, note that the principles of '89 secure religious liberty, and in article I. of the present ruling Constitution of France, are recognized, "confirmed and guaranteed as the basis of the common rights (*droit public*) of the French;" in the sixth place, which is at some distance from the preceding places, note that all enlightened Europeans, the French foremost among them, condemn and despise the duplicity of the Chinese; in the seventh place, observe that the official elements of the ruling, practical constitution of France being equality, herded, level sameness in the mass, and thorough, systematized centralization gathering to one sole controlling head, chief or knob (vulgarily sounded "nub"), individualism and Protestantism of any kind is antagonistic and necessarily revolutionary; eighthly, Louis Napoleon, being a man of shrewd observation, sees this; ninthly, he acts accordingly, and, therefore, does oppose and prevent, as far as is safely possible, all increase and propaganda of Protestantism in religion, for the same reasons that he opposes and suppresses it in literature, in speech, and in press.

It is too late in the age to apply the Chinese method to French Protestants. They cannot be burned, stalked, or served with Cayenne. But in order to the undefined principles of '89 and the loose, confused laws on the matter, they can be, and are very effectively persecuted by subordinate officials, with restrictive ordinances of various sorts and under various political pretences. [Note, in all places, that religious persecutions have almost invariably, in old Rome under Diocletian, in Spain under the Inquisition, in Massachusetts under the orthodox Puritans, and in England under the established Church, been carried on under political pretences.]

Last month in the town of Manbeuge, in the north of France, a Protestant congregation was broken up and a part of its members marched on a Sunday from their place of worship to the town jail. You may read an authoritative account of a whole affair in the fourth and fifth of this month. The final proceedings of the civil authorities in the case were according to our American notions of right and law, as gross a violation of justice as vigilance committee or lynching mob was ever guilty of. But such is the state of the law in France that, although the congregation honestly believed that they had obeyed all its requisitions and had endeavored to fulfill, in advance of their meeting for the worship of God, all its preliminary formalities, it is almost certain that the tribunals of justice, i.e., the law tribunals, will and must hold the Prefect and his subordinates harmless, who first drove this congregation into prison and then drove them out of it, without warning and without trial.

Such are the French, proud of their superiority over the Chinese, with their consecrated principles of '89, and their arrogant pretension of being at the head of modern civilization. Such is the French Catholic Church, with its pretended Christian zeal and charity. Let us, O American democrats, free and equal, pure Protestant Christians, zealous and unctuously think God that we are not as they. Let us cast up our thankfulness for the light of truth, and let us thank God that the line of vision shall at such an angle as to be back of three and a half million blacks in bondage. Let us pray for the conversion of the French, and that the Tract Society and Seth Bliss may devise some printed form of words conducive to that end, the colportage of which, in translation, shall not be "irritating" to the Emperor, nor to Prefects, nor to others in authority over them.

I read, in the French version of the treaty proposed to the Chinese by the American Commissioner, that "all the rights, privileges and facilities, political or commercial, that shall be granted to any other nation, shall consequently be granted to the United States, its officers, merchants and all its citizens," and, in another article, that the "right of owning or hiring real estate without intervention of the mandarins," is secured to our countrymen.

What are the California laws and regulations respecting the rights and privileges of the Chinese?

DISUNION—THE COST.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25, 1858.

There is not the least doubt that the Disunionists of the South, as a party, are rapidly gaining strength and power. The extreme leaders, such as Yancey of Alabama, are held in proclaiming their views and intentions—too much so, in fact, to enlist at once any large portion of the Southern politicians, but in all the addresses delivered by members of Congress who have been on the stump before their constituents since the adjournment of Congress, that have come under notice of the press, you will find a vein of Disunion sentiment running through them. The latest speech of this kind was from the Hon. Senator Brown of Mississippi, who

intimated that "Slavery and the Union, were incompatible," and that in the event of Slavery being encroached upon, "he did not care how soon Disunion came." It has probably never entered into the heads of these gentlemen who are so fond of separating upon the blessings that would attend a separate and distinct Southern confederacy, the cost in dollars and cents to them of such government, as compared with what it costs them under the present confederacy. As a Southern States, being in favor of Free-trade as a principle in government, of course would resort to direct taxation for support, and I desire merely to show the cost to their people of one single item of their expenses under a Southern confederacy, as compared with the present cost. I allude to the mail service—that service in which all the people, high and low, rich and poor, feel more direct interest than in any other branch of the Government. For the facts and figures which are given, I refer to the last report made to Congress by Mr. Postmaster-General Brown of Mississippi, who, I hope, entertains different sentiments from the other Mississippi Browns, before quoted. According to this report, the expenditure, in round numbers, for 1857, was, \$11,567,578 \$11,567,578

Being less than the expenditure account the sum of \$3,433,719. Of this, the expense of transportation, \$3,433,087 is found in the items of transportation, compensation of postmasters, and incidental expenses. The balance of the expenses for the steamship lines from New-York, New-Orleans, &c. I omit from these calculations, as my object is to show the receipts as compared with the expenses in each State of the Union.

Total expense in the fifteen Slave States for the mail service during 1857, was, \$4,092,934
Total revenue from same, 1,646,461

Excess of expense over revenue, \$2,446,473
The total expense in the seventeen Free States was, \$5,440,133
Total revenue from same, 3,346,494

Excess of expense over revenue, \$2,093,639

Thus demonstrating that the seventeen Free States only lacked the sum of \$2,093,639, in paying for their mail privileges, while the fifteen Slave States lacked \$2,446,473.

During the year 1857, but five States in the Union yielded a net revenue to the Department, viz: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York and Pennsylvania. It will thus be seen that the National Treasury runs a deficit to the Post-Office, of \$17,500,000. The sum of \$13,653,659 performed by 17 Free States of only, \$2,446,473 and for the 15 Slave States of only, \$1,646,461.

If, therefore, a Southern Republic should be organized, and the same mail facilities be granted their people that they now enjoy, a direct tax would have to be levied on them for the following sum:

Present cost of mail service in the States, \$4,092,934
Add cost of steamship service (half), 456,791
Total, \$4,549,725
Deduct receipts, 1,646,461

Deficiency, \$2,903,264

Let the Southern fire-eaters then "calculate" the cost to their people of going out of the Union, and they will find that not only in the mail service, but in numerous ways, the Free States pay all the own expenses of government, and have to pay out of their pockets the cost of the nation's deficiencies of the Southern States.

The schooner *Dolphin*, Capt. Ellery of New-York, owned by Messrs. Woodruff, Griffing & Co., on her way from Aspinwall in ballast, and bound to New-York, was wrecked on Courtown Bank, 15 miles E. S. E. of St. Andrew's Island, Caribbean sea, (10th August, at midnight). In a few hours after her timber was stove in, and she filled. Nine days after the disaster the schooner *Petrel* of Baltimore, Captain Gayle, took the Capt. and crew and a small boy, and carried them to Aspinwall Sea, St. Andrews and Boca del Toro, where they arrived on the 4th Sept. The *Dolphin* was 134 tons registered, and partly insured in Philadelphia.

THE TORCH OF WISDOM.—A night or two since, as the Chicago express over the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Road, Capt. Frank Ward, Conductor, was nearly due at Lick Run Bridge, the side of Indiana, a farmer named Garrison Bluefoot, living in the vicinity, discovered the bridge to be on fire. Knowing that the train must pass in a few minutes, he lighted a torch, and ran down the road as far as he thought necessary to signal the train. The cars soon came booming along at the rate of some forty miles an hour, but upon perceiving the torch, the engineer stopped, and on going to the bridge it was found, after the fire had been extinguished, that the timbers had not yet been so far burned as to render them unsafe for the train to pass. But for the fortunate discovery of the fire by Bluefoot, the bridge would have been destroyed, and perhaps a serious accident had resulted to the succeeding train. The fire had been communicated by burning stubble and grass along the side of the track.

A WHITE BOY KIDNAPPED AND SOLD AS A SLAVE.

The *Charlotte Observer* states that a letter from St. Augustine, Florida, has been received in Charleston, giving the statement of a white boy, named John Ardell, son of Philip Ardell of Charleston, S. C., who was seized on board a steamboat at the latter port two years ago, and sent up in a room and taken to Africa, where he was sold as a charge of a negro trader, and finally sold. After passing through several hands he told his story to some boys of his own age, who immediately reported it, and the slave boy was taken before a Judge, to whom he made the same statement. Measures were to be taken to test the lad's story, and if true he will probably soon be one white slave less in the South.

THE CASE OF RIVIERE.

Capt. De Riviere made his appearance yesterday morning before Justice Welsh at the City Hall Police Court, punctually at 10 o'clock, the hour assigned for his examination to answer the charge of having sent a challenge to Col. Lewis E. Grant of the Nicaraguan Army. Several of his immediate friends accompanied him, foremost among whom was Corporation Counselor Busted. Mr. Busted remarked to Justice Welsh that Capt. De Riviere was present and ready for examination.

Justice Welsh.—The complainant, Col. Grant, is not here; the examination cannot proceed in his absence. Mr. Busted.—When will Col. Grant make his appearance? Justice Welsh.—I will issue a subpoena forthwith, requiring his appearance at 3 p. m. Mr. Busted.—Will you allow Capt. De Riviere to go on his parole until that hour? Justice Welsh.—No; the warrant has been out against the Captain about three weeks, and it has been impossible to find him. Mr. Busted.—I will give my personal assurance that the Captain will be on hand at the specified hour. Justice Welsh.—I shall take no assurances except bail. The case already has become notorious. Capt. De Riviere has eluded the officers, and now that he is arrested, his appearance when needed must be guaranteed by competent bail. You once stipulated for his appearance, and he failed to appear. Mr. Busted.—I never made any such stipulation. Justice Welsh.—I so understood it. Mr. Busted.—The announcement by Capt. De Riviere of his intention to deliver a lecture, and his public promenade up and down Broadway, do not look much like any endeavor to elude the officers. Justice Welsh.—That is neither here nor there. My determination is fixed to require bail for the prisoner's appearance. Mr. Busted.—What is the amount of bail your Honor requires? Justice Welsh.—\$2,000. Mr. Busted.—The required bail will be given. The above transcript in open Court. The magistrate, Mr. Busted, and several others present, retired into a private room adjoining for the purpose of having the bail bond made out and signed. Mr. F. G. Young offered to become surety for the Captain, but further to being with the requirement was to be a lawyer. The magistrate said he could not accept him as bail, as he was legally incompetent. Mr. Busted.—I see no objection to Mr. Young becoming surety in this case. Justice Welsh.—I have no objection to it. You know, Mr. Busted, as well as I do, that should I, unknown, under circumstances, accept Mr. Young as bail I should render myself liable to prosecution for malfeasance in office. The Revised Statutes of 1846 are explicit on this point. Mr. Busted.—Most right! Well, I suppose the thing is fixed; yet, Honor, is determined to follow in the wake of the Recorder, and demand \$2,000 bail. Justice Welsh.—I shall stand no such proceedings as

those just exhibited by you, Mr. Busted; I consider it an insult.

Mr. Busted.—What proceeding, if your Honor please? Justice Welsh.—Winking and blinking at the reporters.

Mr. Busted.—I have winked and blinked at no one. You can ask the reporters: I don't think they will be about the matter. My conduct has been open and above-board.

Justice Welsh.—Very open, indeed! Your conduct has been very offensive to me. Mr. Busted.—Your premises are all wrong; your conclusions are of like character.

Justice Welsh.—You are right, but you have been chased and hooted by hounds; he is one of the worst abused men in the community.

Mr. Young the proposed bail, proffering a remark—Come, and this sparring, and bring the matter to some sort of a wind-up.

Mr. Busted (addressing himself smilingly to the Magistrate).—Considering the slight personal feeling that has arisen between your Honor and myself, will you allow the case to go before the Recorder? Justice Welsh.—Certainly, I shall not require, however, an intimation from the Recorder of his willingness to take the case in hand.

Mr. Busted and Mr. Young immediately left the Court-room, and in less than five minutes returned. Mr. Busted handed a note from the Recorder to Justice Welsh, by which the Recorder notified his willingness to take the case transferred to his Court. The papers appertaining to the matter were at once delivered into Mr. Busted's hands, and he, together with Capt. De Riviere and other parties immediately interested, proceeded before the Recorder, who forthwith accepted Mr. Young as bail, and discharged the Captain. The case was then referred to the Recorder of the Captain at the Court of General Sessions.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH. The Commissioners met at noon. Present, the Mayor and Drs. Thompson, Blackwell, Sir and Muller. A basket of grapes, sent by Dr. Underhill to the Mayor, constituted the first business in order. Having been pronounced healthy by Dr. Thompson, they were disposed of by the Commissioners and reporters, under the rule.

The case of the steamer James Alder applied to have the vessel come to the dock to take in cargo for Charleston. The Board refused, but granted a steam permit instead. The same application, made on behalf of the Columbia, was also refused. The ship *Henry Clark*, from Havana, petitioned to come up. The Board refused, but granted a steam permit instead. The same application, made on behalf of the Columbia, was also refused.

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Mr. CROMWELL applied to have the steamer *Huntville*, from Savannah dock here, come to the city to discharge and reload. She had no passengers. Referred, the Board deeming it necessary to detain her for observation. The bark *Palmato* was referred for a report.

The captain of the brig *Darago* applied to go to Red Hook, instead of Hunter's Point. The Mayor informed him there was a great difference between the two places, Hunter's Point being out of town, and Red Hook being a part of Brooklyn. The Board refused the petition.